

Presidential Address

Honored Members of the European Society of Neuroradiology and Participants at the 32nd Congress of our Society,

With the advanced course and the annual meeting of the ESNR, we are guests this year in a wonderful city which is justified in calling itself “La superba”, the Proud. Being here entices one to draw some parallels between the venue of the Congress and the current position of European Neuroradiology.

We, too, can be proud not only of a past in which Neuroradiology set the pace in many areas of diagnostic and therapeutic radiology, but also when we look at the present. Quality and decisive enthusiasm has led to high acceptance, especially by our clinical partners, and to the awareness that Neuroradiology is vital both in research and in clinical care. An abundance of cooperative efforts has arisen from mutual goals and has led away from uncritical possessive thinking in the care of patients to meaningful interaction. The number of Neuroradiologists in Europe is increasing, their position is improving, more and more departments are becoming independent and well know how to make good use of this. The claim for quality is kept high in the knowledge that excellence is the best guarantee that Neuroradiology will be esteemed, supported and further developed. The ESNR and its members don't shrink from these tasks and, by offering many opportunities for further education and training, work to maintain the good standards and to expand them still further. One sign, and not the least of them, is this Congress with the Advanced Course, further the European Courses of Neuroradiology (ECNR), numerous national events, and also the first Master's Courses in Barcelona, Aquila, Paris or Stockholm. The instruments formed by the ESNR for Quality Assurance and Control, such as the European Board of Neuroradiology (EBNR), European Qualification in Neuroradiology (EQNR) and the Certification of training centres are excellent means of further developing European Neuroradiology over the coming years.

There appears, now, to be some movement in the internal relationship to Radiology as well. The Radiologists are starting to correct their conception of Neuroradiology. It's true that their comprehension has not progressed to the point where they view Neuroradiology as a specialty with several subspecialty areas, such as functional imaging, pediatric neuroradiology, head and neck neuroradiology and interventional neuroradiology, but they at least accept that three-year basic training in Radiology is adequate for specialization in Neuroradiology.

Genoa's symbol, the lighthouse, or so-called “Lanterna” is an appropriate metaphor for Neuroradiology, an orientation point for Neuroradiology as an undivided specialty in diagnostic and interventional Neuroradiology.

Specialty: certainly a lofty, demanding but attainable goal for the future.

What does European Neuroradiology need to achieve this goal? Here, too, our host city Genoa helps, when we think of two of its greatest sons: we need the ability, the quality and also the excellent training of a Niccolò Paganini and some of the obsession that also characterized another great personality, Christopher Columbus. But we also need their extroversion to define our goals and demands, to insist on them and to seek and follow pathways to their attainment.

I wish each and every one of us a successful Congress of scientific information, demanding medical education, valuable personal encounters and exchange of knowledge, as well as the experience of a European Neuroradiological Community.

Martin Schumacher
President of the ESNR

